



1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2402  
PHONE 202.783.0800  
FAX 202.383.6610  
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

**MICHAEL J. BELL**  
PARTNER  
202.383.6500  
bellm@howrey.com

August 26, 2004



Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U. S. Patent Appl. No. 10/790,691  
Filed: March 3, 2004  
For: **Screening Apparatus**  
Inventor: David Grant Middleton  
Our Ref: 07045.0002.00US00

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement —4 pages
2. Form PTO-1449 (2 pages) with 10 attached references

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No.08-3038 referencing docket number 07045.0002.00US00. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. *A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Bell".

Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

David Grant MIDDLETON

Appl. No.10/790,691

Filed: March 3, 2004

For: Screening Apparatus

Art Unit: TBA

Examiner: TBA

Atty. Docket: 07045.002.00US00

Confirmation Number: 2309

### Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited

by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ✓ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed;
  - ☐ a. Within three months of the U.S. filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);
  - ☐ b. Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application;
  - ✓ c. Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
  - ☐ d. Before the mailing of a first Office Action after filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.115.

No statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.

or;

- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period specified in paragraph 1(a)-1(d) above, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, or action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and
  - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), or
  - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), or

- ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i), and
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), or
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding International Patent Application. An English language version of the International Search Report (ISR) is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present

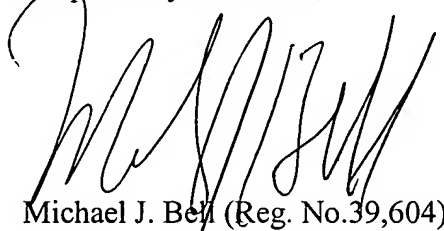
application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038 referencing docket number 07045.0002.00US00.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bell (Reg. No.39,604)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/26/04

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP  
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(202) 383-6500

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

2

Application Number

10/790.691

Filing Date

March 3, 2004

First Named Inventor

Middleton

Art Unit

TBA

Examiner Name

TBA

Attorney Docket Number

07045.0002.00US00

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	4	WO 00/62896	10/26/2000	Ray, et al.		
	5	WO 99/49145	09/30/1999	Corcoran		
	6	EP 0728 512 A2	08/28/1996	Jones & Attwood		

Examiner  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

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**Complete if Known**

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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	7	GB 1 330 909	09/19/1973	Amer. Air Filter Com.		
	8	GB 2 356 157 A	05/16/2001	Kier Construction		
	9	GB 2 354 186 A	03/21/2001	Longwood Eng.		
	10	GB 1 221 971	02/10/1971	Amer. Air Filter Com.		

Examiner  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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